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A PICTURE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

IDEAS FOR CAMERA FANS

(Captions for picture exhibit--4-H Club Camp, 1948)

A.--PLACES AND FRIENDS TO REMEMBER

1. Try framing your historical monument or building with a tree, a bush, or with a door or archway.
2. The beautiful Supreme Court Building against the sky will be more meaningful to you if it shows a line of campers entering the building.
3. A diagonal line of campers visiting Mount Vernon in the rain. Get far enough back and stand in a spot where the camera can see enough of the Mount Vernon mansion to be recognizable.
4. This picture, with campers in uniform in the foreground to identify the occasion--and the boat in the background, brings back happy memories of the trip down the Potomac.
5. Attractively posed, with enough of your friends' faces showing to identify them and enough of the boat and the river to make you remember the good time you had on the trip to Mount Vernon.
6. An unusual pose which made a good picture. A brick wall or some other picturesque feature often will suggest a good pose.
7. An informal grouping of the Kansas delegation on the White House lawn looking toward the White House with the Washington Monument and camp busses in the background.
8. The same group when the photographer got on the other side of the delegation. The White House identifies the occasion and makes a good background. For this purpose, get enough of the White House into the picture and move your friends up close enough to the camera so you can recognize them.
9. Sometimes you just happen to see a picture you want--such as this one, catching unaware a row of leaders on the steps of the Leo Mansion at Arlington. Be quick to snap it.

A.--PLACES AND FRIENDS TO REMEMBER (continued)

10. On the steps at the back of the Jefferson Memorial you can get this vista of lovely columns as background.

B.--PICTURING YOUR PROJECT

11. Background can help tell the story. You know these are corn club boys because they are in a cornfield with their leader.
12. Virginia's baking champion is recognized by the tools of her trade--the ingredients, the baking equipment, the biscuits being cut on the board, and the bread just out of the oven. It is worth a good deal of time and effort to round up all the little things that tell the story without words. The jewelry taken off and in a little pile also brings out a good point.
13. A cabbage in one hand and a basket of vegetables in the other mark her as a 4-H gardener. Back lighting helps to make this picture attractive. When taking pictures into the sun, shade the lens from its direct rays and use a reflector (white paper or sheet) to reflect light into the faces.
14. Photographed against the light, the white paper of the scrapbook reflects the light onto the boys' faces. Details such as seating the boys on a log with the woods making an authentic background, and having the boys turn the leaves of the scrapbook, help to tell the story of two nature-study enthusiasts.
15. Human interest gives a picture more appeal, not only for your friends but for editors who might publish the picture. Little brother on top of the scales, alert, intently watching, and Dad behind them proudly keeping an eye on the operation, give this group a quality of suspense and human interest. The picture shows the family teamwork it takes for a top 4-H project.
16. To show "how it is done," move up close and eliminate all distracting details from the picture. For a close-up, focus carefully and be sure the light is good--either from the sun or a photo floodlight, or a flash if your camera is equipped for it.
17. To picture your garden or field, try climbing up on a shed, ladder, fence, or whatever is available. This enables you to show more of the garden and eliminates a blurred foreground.

B.--PICTURING YOUR PROJECT (continued)

18. A father and son and the county agent tell the story of a partnership in growing corn. Taken from an elevation, the wagon of corn gives an interesting diagonal composition.
19. Action pictures are usually preferred by editors. If your subject is working busily on his project, using both hands, the picture will tell the story better.
20. When taking pictures to show growth, try to take all of them from the same spot and include easily recognizable landmarks. Here, the hill in the background helps to identify the field as the same one in which this 4-H Club boy planted in the spring and cultivated in the summer.
21. To illustrate teamwork, the leader, the grandfather, and the 4-H poultry boy talk it over. Interest is shown by having the leader and the boy bend from the waist to get a better look and by having the eyes of all three directed to the same spot. The background is suitable and simple. It does not draw attention from the main group.

C.--PICTURING YOUR CLUB

22. The club in action makes the best picture for most purposes. You know this club is landscaping the church grounds because the church is in the background, the boys are unloading shrubs, and the leader and another group are studying the plans.
23. A club on tour offers picture possibilities. Keep the boys and girls all looking at the object under discussion. The owner pointing and the girls leaning over the fence to get a better look can be arranged by the photographer to give a feeling of action. Have your livestock hungry.
24. A good location for a tour picture. With the group lined up on the hay wagon, the camera can see most of their faces while they look at the calf. The background is appropriate and attractive. Usually, if you look around you can find the best place to make your picture.
25. To picture a demonstration, get where you can see the demonstration and have the demonstrator busy with both hands. Arrange the audience where their faces can be seen and in a place where the background is attractive.

C.--PICTURING YOUR CLUB (continued)

26. Here a demonstration is pictured indoors. Such a picture can easily be made with photo floodlights or a flash bulb. Have the demonstrator use both hands. Don't snap your picture until all eyes are on the demonstration. If several of the club members can lean over to get a little closer look, it will help to show interest.
27. In club meetings, having a show of hands as in voting, or the president standing with all eyes on his face helps to bring the meeting to life.
28. This picture is another example of the good effect obtained when all eyes are on one spot. The girls are well spaced, some standing and some sitting, to give an unposed, natural look and to avoid a monotonous straight line of heads.
29. Action shots are much desired but good ones are difficult to get. "Candid" pictures are often marred by poor background, or lighting, and posed action pictures are static. One way to get around this is to choose a spot with a good background and have your club practice the action desired until they do it easily and well. You can set up your equipment carefully, decide just when in the action would be the best time to get your picture, and, the next time around, shoot it.
30. This picture was practiced before it was shot. Members of the group were arranged around the piano where the background did not distract and where many faces showed. Then they sang and sang until they almost forgot about the picture. Then it was snapped.
31. Low side lighting and the diagonal line made by having the girl at the left standing and the girl at the right sitting, help this picture. With informal grouping around the globe, the picture tries to tell the story of 4-H Club study and discussion of world affairs.
32. This sort of recreation picture can be made successfully from an elevation. The picture was taken from some high steps. First a place was found in advance that would make a good clear field for the picture. Then, the group was brought over to that spot for their recreation and the picture was snapped.

